

Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission

**Youth Issues Committee
Monday, May 19, 2008**

Adopted Minutes

Commissioners present: Isabella Soto, Mary Lee Wright
Commissioners absent: Wendy Cevallos, Samantha Paz
PC/TWC staff present: Monica Mueller
Public: Desiree Gonzales

- 1) **Call to order:** 3:10 pm.
- 2) **Review agenda:** Insert call to public as item 3.
- 3) **Call to public:** Desiree Gonzales is a junior at Sahuarita High School. She attended the Speak Out conference. She is interested in planning for future Speak Out Conferences.
- 4) **Announcements:**
 - a) The next Running and Winning workshop planning meeting will be Tuesday, May 20th, 2008 at Old Pueblo Grill (on Alvernon) at 1:00pm.
 - b) The Every Voice in Action Foundation is offering a request for proposals, "Youth Voice," for new programs for teenagers. Idea discussed was a possible tutoring program for middle school girls.
- 5) **Review/approval of minutes of last meetings (3/17/08, 3/24/08, 4/09/08, 4/21/08):** Tabled till we have quorum.
- 6) **New business:** None.
- 7) **On-going business – Speak Out conference**
 - a) **Committee's evaluation of conference:** Brainstorm questions included two things we did well, things to change for next time, lessons learned, and things we forgot.
Things that went well:
 - o Shannon Cain's keynote address. Isabella complemented her informality that made people laugh and relax.
 - o Desiree mentioned that she was persuaded to join the conference because a counselor at her high school took her aside and spoke to her, saying she would personally benefit from the conference if she attended. In the future, it would be a good idea for counselors to nominate girls to come to the conference.
 - o The interactive vocal workshop proved to be a good icebreaker, but didn't happen until the middle of the conference. The youth committee agreed it would be better to do an icebreaker in the morning.
 - o The exchange of the evaluation form for the raffle ticket.
 - o Liked the small location; would be good in the future to keep the conference small but also use a big name/well-known location to boost outreach (eg a library).
 - o Self-defense class for all participants.
 - o Breakfast and lunch were good and well-received.

Things to change for next time:

- It's OK to have middle school and high school students together – the break times are especially nice for this mixing of ages – but have separate activities for the different age groups.
- For each workshop/workshop presenter, assign a group leader from the planning committee or a volunteer who would assist in communications/reminder calls to that presenter, greet them when they arrive and show them to their workshop space, and attend their workshop. During the workshop that person could introduce the presenter, help move the conversation along by asking questions, being a go-to person for the presenter for things that occur during the workshop, etc.
- Have an icebreaker or teambuilding exercise.

Lessons learned:

- The committee discussed that the main goal for all conferences is to keep all participants in the workshops. What would be helpful at future Speak Out Conferences would be to have a point person for emergencies. For example, if anyone falls ill, if anyone has to leave early, or if anyone reveals anything traumatic within the time span of the workshop. The main goal would be to keep everyone within the workshops unless any of the mentioned emergencies occurs.
- There was also an idea of having a youth mediator assigned to the presenter.
- An issue brought into the discussion was the low ratings of the sex education workshop. It was the least popular workshop with the most diverse age range.
- There was discussion about doing separate Speak Out Conferences, one for middle school girls and one for high school girls. Two conferences would be a financial push, so there is a possibility of having certain workshops for a certain age range.
- The amount of Eegees ordered was just enough; could increase the order.
- For print materials, use software that's compatible with what the Commission office has.

Don't forget to...:

- Give a reminder call to the presenters the week of the conference to avoid delays in the workshops.
- The first aid kit at whichever venue chosen should be readily available.
- Have feminine products available.

b) Review of participant evaluation forms: Each committee member received and reviewed a summary of the participant evaluations.

c) Status of conference follow-up activities: Office staff are finishing up thank you letters to presenters and donors. Final budget information available at a future meeting. Isabella will review the photographs taken by a workshop volunteer.

d) Planning for next year; discuss possible follow-up meeting with interested participants: It was unanimously agreed that no one wanted to do a follow up meeting, and to do the next conference in the spring.

8) Adjournment: Mary Lee motioned to adjourn. Isabella seconded the motion. Adjournment at 4:45pm.